

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
MCT-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00 ACDA-12 HA-05 IO-13
AID-05 EB-08 FRB-03 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01
STR-07 CEA-01 OES-07 DOE-15 SOE-02 CEQ-01 DLOS-09
CG-00 DOTE-00 SNM-05 DEAE-00 JUSE-00 /173 W
-----130915 011543Z /44

R 301915Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2871
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 CARACAS 6151

USCINCLANT FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PEPR ETRD PINS NS VE
SUBJECT: THIS WEEK IN VENEZUELA

REF: CARACAS 5896

SUMMARY: GOV FOILS ALLEGED KIDNAPPING PLOT. MISCELLANY
ON THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. SURINAM PRIME MINISTER VISITS
CARACAS. PNERUA SPEAKS ON THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY. MORE
CHANGES IN MILITARY HIGH COMMAND. GRAPHIC ARTS EXHIBITION
OPENS. END SUMMARY.

1. GOV FOILS ALLEGED KIDNAPPING PLOT.
ON JUNE 27, THE DIRECTOR OF DISIP (THE INTERIOR MINISTRY
SECURITY SERVICE) CONFIRMED TO THE PRESS THAT SIX PERSONS
WERE DETAINED BY DISIP IN CONNECTION WITH AN ABORTIVE
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KIDNAPPING ATTEMPT AGAINST ARGENIS GAMBOA, PRESIDENT OF
THE VENEZUELAN GUAYANA CORPORATIN (CVG). HE ALSO SAID
INCRIMINATING DOCUMENTS WERE FOUND IN AN APARTMENT IN
PUERTO ORDAZ WHERE THE SIX WERE ARRESTED.
COMMENT: GAMBOA APPEARED TO BE ALMOST AS MUCH IN THE DARK
ABOUT THE DETAILS OF THE ALLEGED PLOT AS THE GENERAL PUBLIC.
HE TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE WAS INFORMED EARLIER THIS WEEK BY

PRESIDENT PEREZ THAT DISIP HAD FOILED AN ATTEMPTED KIDNAPPING PLOT AGAINST HIM. THE GOV, SAID GAMBOA, PRESUMED THE KIDNAPPERS TO HAVE DIRECT TIES TO THE RED FLAG GUERRILLA GROUP. GAMBOA SAID THAT THE GOV HAD TOLD HIM TO GET BODYGUARDS. HE ADDED THAT GOV DID NOT APPEAR TO KNOW IF THE KIDNAPPING EVER GOT BEYOND THE TALKING STAGE. THE PRESS IS SPECULATING, APPARENTLY BASED ON DISIP SOURCES, THAT BR-M-L IS INVOLVED, AND THAT PART OF THE EVIDENCE FOUND AT THE TERRORIST BASE WAS A LIST OF POTENTIAL KIDNAPPING TARGETS. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT MARGARITA OVIEDO, THE MISTRESS OF BR-M-L LEADER CARLOS BETANCOURT, WAS INVOLVED AND THAT A COURT IN MATURIN HAS ISSUED A WARRANT FOR HER ARREST. THIS DEVELOPMENT TENDS TO LEND SOME CREDENCE TO OTHER REPORTS THA THE INSURGENTS MAY BE PLANNING A DRAMATIC ACT TO GARNER PUBLICITY (AN/OR FINAANCES) AS THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN PROGRESSES.

2. CAMPAIGN BITS AND PIECES: COPEI, CALDERA AND "CUNAS" (PUBLICITY).

FORMER PRESIDENT CALDERA RETURNED FROM A TWO-WEEK VISIT TO EUROPE, TO ANNOUNCE THAT HE HAS NOT ABANDONED THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL AND THEN TRAVELLED TO YARACUY AND ZULIA IN SUPPORT OF LUIS HERRERA. HOWEVER, HE ALSO SOMEWHAT PETULANTLY TOLD THE PRESS IN ZULIA THAT "HE IS NOT THE CANDIDATE THIS TIME" AND THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN ASSIGNED ANY SPECIFIC ROLE IN THE CAMPAIGN ORGANIZATION. LUIS HERRERA ADDRESSED 12,000 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TEACHERS IN THE OPENING PRESENTATION OF THE COPEYANO PROGRAM- THE THEME: "EDUCATION," WHICH HERRERA SAYS WILL BE THE FOREMOST CORNERSTONE OF HIS CAMPAIGN. THE PRESS REPORTS INDIVIDUAL POLLS SHOW PINERUA LEADING HERRERA IN CARACAS BY 6 PERCENTAGE POINTS (24-18) WHICH IS SIGNIFICANT IF TRUE, SINCE CARACAS (EXCEPT FOR 1973) HAS NEVER BEEN AD TERRITORY. ANOTHER POLL ALLEGEDLY NOTES THAT FOLLOWING BETANCOURT'S CAMPAIGNING IN LARA STATE, PINERUA NOW LEADS HERRERA THERE BY SEVERAL POINTS. THIS NEWS CAN HARDLY SOOTHE THE COPEYANO CANDIDTATE SINCE LARA IS HIS HOME STATE. NEITHER POLL IS DEFINITIVE, BUT BOTH CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE WHICH WAY THE POLITICAL WINDS ARE BLOWING. AND FINALLY, A WIDELY-READ WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE DID A MAJOR ARTICLE ON AD'S TV PUBLICITY SPOTS, NOTING ACCURATELY THAT THEY DO NOT FEATURE THE LESS THAN PHOTOGENIC PINERUA, BUT RATHER LOCAL PEOPLE, INCLUDING AN OLD FISHERMAN, A GUAJIRA INDIAN GIRL, AND SNAPPY BANDS FROM ZULIA, WHO HAVE BECOME "HOUSEHOLD" FACES IN THEIR OWN RIGHT.

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3. SURINAM PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES IN CARACAS.
SURINAM PRIME MINISTER HENCK ARRON ARRIVED JUNE 27 TO BEGIN
A FIVE-DAY VISIT TO VENEZUELA. (SEPTTEL FOLLOWS) DURING
HIS VISIT, ARRON ISSCHEDULED TO HOLD TALKS WITH PRESIDENT
CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ, FONMIN CONSALVI AND OTHER GOV MINISTERS
ON BILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOP-
MENT FUND, AND SIGN TWO ACCORDS, ONE ON CULTURE AND THE
OTHER ON EDUCATION. DURING THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF HIS VISIT,
ARRON ATTENDED THE INAUGURATION OF THE MIXED SURINAMESE-
VENEZUELA COMMISSION AND MET WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF
THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA), SUBSEQUENTLY
ANNOUNCING SURINAM'S DECISION TO JOIN SELA. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED
DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT AN ECONOMIC ACCORD WITH
VENEZUELA WOULD BE SIGNED JULY 24 WHEN PRESIDENT PEREZ
VISITS SURINAM.

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4. PINERUA SPEAKS ON ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY.
ON JUNE 22, AD CANDIDATE, PINERUA ORDAZ, SPOKE AT A FORUM

ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SPONSORED BY YOUTH FOR PINERUA. HE REITERATED THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT'S POSITION THAT TECHNOLOGICAL INDEPENDENCE IS A BASIC REQUIREMENT FOR THE CONTINUED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF VENEZUELA, AND CALLED FOR THE CREATION OF A SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN VENEZUELA WHICH WOULD PROVIDE THE R&D CAPACITY NECESSARY TO ATTAIN TECHNOLOGICAL INDEPENDENCE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO IMPORT WHATEVER TECHNOLOGY MIGHT BE NECESSARY FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY AND CITED THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY AS AN EXAMPLE. HE FURTHER STATED THAT A GREATER COORDINATING ROLE FOR TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS WOULD BE GIVEN TO CONICIT (VENEZUELA'S NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL) AND THAT THE DIRECTORSHIP OF CONICIT WOULD BE RAISED TO CABINET-LEVEL STATUS IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO AFFIRMED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN BOTH THE FORMULATION OF NATIONAL POLICY AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PLAN FOR TECHNOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

5. MORE CHANGES IN MILITARY HIGH COMMAND.

ON JUNE 26, THE GOV ANNOUNCED CHANGES IN THE NUMBER TWO AND THREE POSITIONS IN THE VENEZUELAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. FORMER CHIEF OF THE JOINT GENERAL STAFF, ADMIRAL FELIX MENDOZA ACOSTA WAS NAMED INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE ARMED FORCES, THE NUMBER TWO POSITION IN THE DEFENSE MINISTRY. MAJOR GENERAL NUVENAL ROJAS CORDOVA BECAME THE NEW CHIEF OF THE JOINT GENERAL STAFF. COMMENT: THESE SHIFTS IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ARE THE RESULT OF NORMAL RETIREMENTS, THE MOST RECENT BEING THAT OF GENERAL FELIPE GUSTAVO PARRAGA NUNEZ, WHO RETIRED AS INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE ARMED FORCES. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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6. GRAPHIC ARTS EXHIBITION OPENS.

THE EMBASSY OFFICIALLY INAUGURATED THE GRAFI-QUIPOS EXHIBITION ON JUNE 26. THE EXHIBITION, WHICH RUNS UNTIL JULY 1, HAS HAD AN AVERAGE ATTENDANCE OF OVER 200 VISITORS A DAY. ONE VENEZUELAN FIRM HAS ALREADY SIGNED A CONTRACT IN THE MILLION DOLLAR RANGE WHILE A NUMBER OF OTHER FIRMS ARE CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS.

7. OTHER REPORTING THIS WEEK INCLUDED NIEHOUSE CASE-COURT TESTIMONY (CARACAS 5903), TENTATIVE PROGRAM FOR AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON IN CARACAS (CARACAS 5905), CAMPAIGN '78-THE BACKSTRETCH (CARACAS 5933), U.S. COAST GUARD EFFORTS TO SUPPRESS DURG TRAFFICKING (CARACAS 5982), N/V JOSE GREGORIO (CARACAS 6042 AND 6117), YELLOWFIN TUNA IMPORTS--FINDINGS (CARACAS 5924), FIRST MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN GROUP FOR COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CARACAS 6034), IMPORT PROHIBITIONS (CARACAS 6049), 1979 BUDGET BILL PRESENTED

TO CONGRESS-BALANCED AT \$10.8 BILLION (CARACAS 6035).
CROWLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
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TAGS: PINT, PEPR, ETRD, PINS, NS, VE
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